

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/762,038

Examiner

Jin-Cheng Wang

Applicant(s)

HAYASHI, JUNICHI

Art Unit

2628

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/31/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 54-56 and 63-65 and 67-74.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |

***EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT***

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and or additions be unacceptable to the applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Prior to this Office Action, the Examiner's amendment has been authorized by Marlene Klein dated December 5, 2007. Applicant agrees with the changes suggested by the Examiner to the specification.

1. Please amend claim 54 by replacing "binary additional information composed of bit values (0 or 1)", at lines 3-4 of claim 54, with "binary additional information composed of a sequence of bit values (0 or 1)". At the last two lines of claim 54, please replace "a bit value at a corresponding bit position in the binary additional information composed of bit values (0 or 1)" with "a bit value at a corresponding bit position in the sequence of bit values (0 or 1) of the binary additional information".
2. Please replace "An image processing apparatus" with "The image processing apparatus" in the first line of Claim 55.
3. Please replace "An image processing apparatus" with "The image processing apparatus" in the first line of Claim 56.
4. Please amend claim 63 by replacing "binary additional information composed of bit values (0 or 1)" at lines 3-4 of claim 63, with "binary additional information composed of a sequence of bit values (0 or 1)". At the last two lines of claim 63, please replace "a bit value at a

corresponding bit position in the binary additional information composed of bit values (0 or 1)" with "a bit value at a corresponding bit position in the sequence of bit values (0 or 1) of the binary additional information".

5. Please replace "An image processing method" with "The image processing method" in the first line of Claim 64.
6. Please replace "An image processing method" with "The image processing method" in the first line of Claim 65.
7. Please delete Claim 66.
8. Please replace "An image processing apparatus" with "The image processing apparatus" in the first line of Claim 67.
9. Please replace "An image processing apparatus" with "The image processing apparatus" in the first line of Claim 68.
10. Please replace "An image processing method" with "The image processing method" in the first line of Claim 69.
11. Please replace "An image processing method" with "The image processing method" in the first line of Claim 70.
12. Please amend claim 71 by replacing "a bit value at a corresponding bit position in binary additional information" at lines 8-9 of claim 71, with "a bit value at a corresponding bit position in a sequence of bit values (0 or 1) of binary additional information".
13. Please replace "An image processing apparatus" with "The image processing apparatus" in the first line of Claim 72.
14. Please amend claim 73 by replacing "a bit value at a corresponding bit position in binary

additional information" at lines 8-9 of claim 73, with "a bit value at a corresponding bit position in a sequence of bit values (0 or 1) of binary additional information".

15. Please replace "An image processing method" with "The image processing method" in the first line of Claim 74.

Claims 54-56, 63-65 and 67-74 of the amendment filed 10/31/2007 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of these claims: Nothing in the prior art anticipates or suggests, "the information-attaching means moving each second dot from the predetermined position along a direction which is defined by a bit value at a corresponding bit position in the sequence of the bit values (0 or 1) of the binary additional information" in an image processing apparatus, set forth in the base claim 54.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (571) 272-7665. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 6:30 (Mon-Thu).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on (571) 272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JCW *Juntheng Wang, P.E.*